

4015, Jennings County Schools

PROJECT ABSTRACT

The rationale for this project is to improve the performance of our students through:

- * Content: Providing additional content resources through technology that meet or exceed Indiana Academic Standards,
- * Instruction: Providing teachers with technology to enhance classroom instruction, and
- * Assessment: Providing an immediate method of assessing the level of student understanding and performance.

Technology, whether it is software or hardware, must become a tool for student learning. To accomplish this use, it must facilitate sharing content, provide engaging instructional methods, and assess more immediately the level of student understanding. Therefore, the goals of this project are:

* Content: To provide professional development to teachers in the use of technology to access content available on-line and via software in language arts, mathematics, and science. In providing this professional development, teachers will learn to access digital content from various sources such as multimedia, internet sites, teacher created materials, etc. This content will be used to create lessons that enhance student understanding and learning opportunities.

* Instruction: To provide professional development to teachers in the use of technology in creating instructional strategies that cause every student to become involved in the daily lessons and projects within the classroom. Professional development will provide teachers with skills to utilize Interwrite Mobi devices, Classroom Response System (CRS) devices, corporation owned software, and internet resources, such as I-STEM. In addition, teachers will be trained in the use instructional strategies that can be utilized from assessment resources such as Plato, Accuity, SRA Reading, Accelerated Reading and Accelerated Math.

* Assessment: To provide professional development to teachers in the utilization assessment resources, Mobi devices, and CRS devices to provide immediate means to check the level of student understanding of content presented within the classroom. This immediate means of feedback to the teacher will permit them adjust instruction to increase student understanding and level of performance. Thereby, technology will permit enhanced instructional effectiveness and student learning.

The project will focus on outcomes that are measurable relative to its stated goals. The following indicators will evidence the project outcomes:

- Teacher trainers will create training modules that any teacher can access from the corporation network. These modules will be available to staff to reinforce professional development activities denoted within this grant.
- Teachers will develop at least one lesson per semester that utilizes the technology and resources denoted within this grant to place on the corporation website. This lesson will be available to colleagues for future use.
- Teachers will increase in their understanding of how to utilize the technology noted within this grant.
- Teachers will be list software programs and online resources that they utilize in creating lessons for their students. This list of curriculum resources in language arts, mathematics, and science will be placed on the corporation website for future use.
- Students will improve their performance level on ISTEP+ assessments in language arts, mathematics and science.
- Student performance on AP exams will result in a higher percentage of students scoring a 3 or above on the exam.

Jennings County School Corporation (JCSC) has worked hard to improve its technological infrastructure. This grant will permit it to move from infrastructure to instruction using technology. This grant will permit JCSC teachers in grades five through high school to create lessons that are engaging and that provide students immediate feedback relative their understanding of Indiana Academic Standards.